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JOURNAL

OF THE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

THIRTY-NINTH CONVENTION

OF THE

Protestant Episcopal Church,

IN THE

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

HELD IN ST. JAMES'S CHURCH,

IN THE

CITY OF LANCASTER,

*On Tuesday, May 13th, Wednesday, May 14th, and Thursday,
May 15th, A. D. 1823.*

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L I S T
OF THE
CLERGY AND LAY DELEGATES,
WHO COMPOSED
THE
CONVENTION.

The Right Rev. *William White*, D. D. bishop, and rector of Christ church, St. Peter's and St. James's, Philadelphia.

The Rev. *James Abercrombie*, D. D. senior assistant minister of Christ church, St. Peter's and St. James's, Philadelphia.

The Rev. *Benjamin Allen*, rector of St. Paul's church, Philadelphia.

The Rev. *Gregory T. Bedell*, rector of St. Andrew's church, Philadelphia.

The Rev. *Moses P. Bennet*, deacon, officiating at Greensburg and Kittanning.

The Rev. *Levi Bull*, rector of St. Gabriel's church, Berks County, St. Mary's, Chester county, and Bangor church, Churchtown, Lancaster county.

The Rev. *Joseph Clarkson*, associate rector of St. James's, Lancaster, St. John's, Pequea, and rector of Christ church, Leacock, Lancaster county.

The Rev. *Jehu C. Clay*, rector of St. James's, Perkiomen, and St. John's, Norristown, Montgomery county.

The Rev. *William H. Delancey*, assistant minister of Christ church, St. Peter's and St. James's, Philadelphia.

The Rev. *Charles M. Dupuy*, rector of St. Luke's, Germantown.

The Rev. *Jackson Kemper*, assistant minister of Christ church, St. Peter's and St. James's, Philadelphia.

The Rev. *James Montgomery*, rector of St. Stephen's church Philadelphia.

The Rev. *Richard U. Morgan*, deacon, rector of St. Paul's church, Chester, and St. Martin's church, Marcus Hook, Delaware county.

The Rev. *William Augustus Muhlenberg*, associate rector of St. James's church, Lancaster, and St. John's church, Pequea, Lancaster county.

The Rev. *George Sheets*, rector of Trinity church, Oxford, and All Saints church, Lower Dublin, Philadelphia county.

The Rev. *Joseph Spencer*, rector of St. John's church, Carlisle, Cumberland county.

The Rev. *William Thompson*, rector of Trinity church, Pittsburg, Alleghany county.

LAY DELEGATES.

Adams county. Huntington, Christ's church, *John H. Marsden*, *M. C. Clarkson*.

Chester county. East Nantmeal Township, St. Mary's church, *Clement Brooke*.

New London Cross-roads, St. John's church, *Thomas Charlton*.

Great Valley, St. Peter's church, *Cromwell Pearce*.

Cumberland county. Carlisle, St. John's church, *James B. Gibson*, *Edward J. Stiles*.

Delaware county. Chester, St. Paul's church, *Peter Deshong*.

Marcus Hook, St. Martin's church, *Thomas Robinson*.

Radnor, St. David's church, *Philip Sheaffe*, *John Hunter*.

Huntingdon county. Huntingdon, *Richard Gray*, *Molton C. Rogers*.

Lancaster County. Lancaster, St. James's church, *Robert Coleman*, *Charles L. Smith*, *Molten C. Rogers*.

Pequea, St. John's church, *John Yeates*, *Diller Baker*, *Thomas G. Henderson*.

Leacock, Christ's church, *John Lightner*, *John Dunlap*.

Church Town, Bangor church, *Cyrus Jacobs*, *Edward Davies*.

Philadelphïa city and county. Christ church, *William Tilghman*, *Thomas H. White*.

St. James's church, *John Read*.

St. Peter's church, *William Meredith*, *John Miller, Jr.*

St. Stephen's church, *Samuel Hazlehurst*.

St. Andrew's church, *Cornelius Stevenson*.

Southwark, Trinity church, Capt. *Edward Wallington*.

Lower Dublin, All Saints church, *Joseph Ashton*.

Oxford, Trinity Church, *William Overington*.

Mantua, St. Mark's church, *Edward Coleman*.

The following clergymen, members of the convention, were not present during this session.

The Rev. *Robert Blackwell*, D. D. residing in Philadelphia.

The Rev. *Joseph Hutchins*, D. D. residing in Philadelphia.

The Rev. *Joseph Pilmore*, D. D. residing in Philadelphia.

The Rev. *Frederick Beasley*, D. D. Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

The Rev. *Robert Ayres*, residing in Brownsville, Fayette county.

The Rev. *Francis Reno*, officiating in Beaver county.

The Rev. *John Taylor*, residing in Pittsburg.

The Rev. *Caleb Hopkins*, rector of St. James's church, Muncey creek, Lycoming county, and St. Gabriel's, Sugar loaf, Columbia county.

The Rev. *James Wiltbank*, master of the grammar school in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

The Rev. *George Boyd*, rector of St. John's church, Northern Liberties, and temporary rector of Trinity church, Southwark, Philadelphia.

The Rev. *Samuel C. Brinckle*, rector of St. David's church, Radnor, and St. John's church, Concord, Delaware county.

The Rev. *John Rodney Jr.*, rector of Trinity church Easton, Northampton county.

The Rev. *Joseph Jaquett*, rector of St. James's church, Bristol, Bucks county.

The Rev. *Samuel Sitgreaves*, deacon, rector of St. Stephen's church, Wilkesbarre, Luzerne county.

The Rev. *John P. Bausman, Jr.* officiating in the churches in Fayette county.

JOURNAL, &c.



Lancaster, Tuesday May 13th, 1823.

THIS being the day appointed for the meeting of the Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal church in the State of Pennsylvania, the Rt. Rev. William White, D. D. Bishop of the Diocese, and several clergy and lay delegates attended in St. James's church.

The chair being taken by the Bishop, the Rev. William H. De Lancey read the following document.

Extract from the minutes of the Standing committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

"Philadelphia, March 8, 1823.

Resolved, that, whereas the office of Secretary of the Convention is vacant, in consequence of the displacing of Mr. Roche from the ministry, the Rev. Mr. De Lancey be appointed to supply the vacancy until the opening of the next State Convention."

A true copy,

JACKSON KEMPER,

Secretary.

The list of the clergy entitled to seats, was called over, and the following answered to their names and took their seats.

The Rev. *James Abercrombie*, D. D. Senior Assistant Minister of Christ Church, St. Peter's and St. James's, Philadelphia; the Rev. *Joseph Clarkson*, Associate Rector of St. James's Church, Lancaster, and St. John's, Pequea, and Rector of Christ Church, Leacock, Lancaster County; the Rev. *Jackson Kemper*, Assistant Minister of Christ Church, St. Peters, and St. James's, Philadelphia; the Rev. *Levi Bull*, Rector of St. Gabriel's Church, Berks County, St. Mary's Church, Chester County, and Bangor

Church, Churchtown, Lancaster County; the Rev. *Benjamin Allen*, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia; the Rev. *William A. Muhlenberg*, Associate Rector of St. James's Church, Lancaster, and St. John's Pequea, Lancaster County; the Rev. *Joseph Spencer*, Rector of St. John's Church, Carlisle, Cumberland County; the Rev. *Jehu C. Clay*, Rector of St. James's, Perkiomen, and St. John's Church, Norristown, Montgomery County; the Rev. *William H. De Lancey*, Assistant Minister of Christ Church, St. Peter's and St. James's, Philadelphia; the Rev. *Charles M. Dupuy*, Rector of St. Luke's Church, Germantown, Philadelphia County; the Rev. *William Thomson*, Rector of Trinity Church, Pittsburg, Alleghany County; the Rev. *Richard U. Morgan*, Deacon, Minister of St. Paul's Church, Chester, and St. Martin's Church, Marcus Hook; the Rev. *Norman Nash*, Deacon, Minister of St. John's Church, Huntingdon County.

The following Lay Delegates presented certificates of their appointment, and took their seats :—

From Christ Church, Philadelphia, the Hon. *William Tilghman*, *Thomas H. White*; from St. Peters' Church, Philadelphia, *William Meredith*; from St. James's Church, Philadelphia, *John Read*; from Trinity Church, Southwark, Capt. *Edward Wallington*; from St. John's Church, Carlisle, Hon. *James B. Gibson*, *Edward J. Stiles*; from Bangor Church, Churchtown, *Cyrus Jacobs*, *Edward Davies*; from St. Paul's Church, Chester, *Peter Deshong*; from St. John's Church, Huntingdon, *Richard C. Gray*, *Molton C. Rogers*; from St. Martin's Church, Marcus Hook, *Thomas Robinson*; from Christ's Church, Huntingdon, Adams County, *John H. Marsden*, *M. C. Clarkson*; from St. Mary's Church, Chester County, *Clement Brooks*; from St. James's Church, Lancaster, *Molton C. Rogers*, *C. S. Smith*; from St. Peter's Church, Great Valley, Chester County, *Cromwell Pearce*.

The Rev. William H. De Lancey was appointed Secretary.

The Convention adjourned until to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Wednesday, May 14th.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Morning Prayer was conducted by the Rev. *Dr. Abercrombie*, and a Sermon preached by the Rev. *Gregory T. Bedell*, Rector of St. Andrew's Church, Philadelphia.

The following Clergymen, members of the Convention, not present yesterday, appeared and took their seats:

The Rev. *James Montgomery*, Rector of St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia; the Rev. *Gregory T. Bedell*, Rector of St. Andrew's Church, Philadelphia; the Rev. *George Sheets*, Rector of Trinity Church, Oxford, and All Saint's Church, Lower Dublin, Philadelphia County; the Rev. *Moses P. Bennet*, Deacon, Minister of Christ's Church, Greensburg.

The following Lay Delegates having produced the testimonials of their appointment, took their seats.

From St. David's Church, Radnor, Delaware County, *Philip Sheaffe*, *John Hunter*; from Christ's Church, (Leacock,) Lancaster County, *John Lightner*, *John Dunlap*; from Trinity Church, Oxford, Philadelphia County, *William Overington*; from St. John's Church, Pequea, Lancaster County, *John Yeates*, *Diller Baker*, *Thomas G. Henderson*; from All Saints's Church, Philadelphia County, *Joseph Ashton*; from St. Mark's Church, Mantua, Philadelphia County, *Edward Coleman*; from St. James's Church, Lancaster, *Robert Coleman*.

On motion of Mr. *Read*, St. Andrew's Church, in the City of Philadelphia, was duly admitted into union with the Convention; and *Cornelius Stevenson* having presented the certificate of his appointment, took his seat as Lay Delegate from that Church.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Montgomery*, St. Stephen's Church, in the City of Philadelphia, was duly admitted into union with the Convention, and *Samuel Hazlehurst*, Lay Delegate from the same, presented his certificate and took his seat.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Thompson*, Christ's Church, Greensburg, Westmoreland county, was received into union with the convention.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to report the number of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary, to which, agreeably to the Constitution of the same, this Diocess is entitled.

Mr. *Meredith*, Mr. *Miller*, and Mr. *Smith* were appointed.

The Convention then adjourned until half past three o'clock in the afternoon.

Wednesday, half past 3 o'clock, P. M.

The convention met pursuant to adjournment. The Right Rev. BISHOP WHITE, in compliance with the 45th canon of the general convention, read the following address upon the state of the Church in this Diocess.

Brethren, the Clergy, and Lay Deputies of this Convention—

The following communication is made in compliance with the requisitions of the 45th Canon.

On the 5th of May, in the forenoon, I preached and confirmed in All Saint's Church, Lower Dublin; and in the afternoon of that day I did the same in Trinity Church, Oxford.

On the 30th of May, I laid the corner stone of a Church in the city of Philadelphia, which Church was called after the name of the first martyr, St. Stephen.

On the 23d day of July, I attended and presided at the annual meeting of the Trustees of the Theological Seminary in New-York; on which occasion it was matter of great satisfaction to me, to witness the progress made at so early a period of an Institution, which is likely, under the blessing of God, to be the nursery of a pious, learned, and a zealous ministry in our Church. This leads me to mention, that in consequence of the exertions of some respectable ladies of the City of Philadelphia, there has been established a scholarship in that Institution, by the deposit of \$2500 in its Treasury. The sum exacted by the laws of the Institution is \$2000; but the ladies have exceeded the requisition. They have done me the honour to call the Scholarship after my name; and the appointment of a scholar, is to be permanently in the ecclesiastical authority of this diocese.

On the 5th of September, I laid the corner stone of a Church in the City of Philadelphia, to be called St. Andrew's Church.

On the 15th of the same month, in the forenoon, I preached and confirmed in St. Mary's Church, Chester County; and on the afternoon of that day, I did the same in Bangor Church, Lancaster County.

On the 27th of the same month, I admitted to Priests Orders, under letters dimissory from Bishop Bowen, Peter Vanpelt, junr. formerly of this Diocese.

On the 17th of October, I laid the corner stone of a small Church in a settlement called Francisville, at the distance of about a mile from the City of Philadelphia, to the north-west. The Church is to be called after the name of St. Matthew.

On the 29th of October, I consecrated Emanuel Church, in the Borough of New Castle, in the State of Delaware; on which occasion I preached, and administered the Lord's supper.

On the 22d day of December, in St. James's Church, in the city of Philadelphia, I ordained to the Holy Order of Priests, Joseph Jaquett, of this Diocese.

On the 28th of February, I consecrated St. Stephen's Church; the corner stone of which had been laid, as already stated.

Persons confirmed by me within the year are 210 in number.

The dates of confirmations held in the Churches under my pastoral care, have not been noticed.

The Rev. Samuel Sitgreaves, jr. who had been ordained in this his native state, but had been settled for some time in South Carolina, has returned, and taken the charge of the Episcopal congregation in Wilkes Barre: in which Borough there has been lately erected a handsome and commodious Church, expected to be consecrated in the ensuing season.

The Rev. Gregory T. Bedell, originally of the Diocess of New York, and since of that of North Carolina, has become a Clergyman of this Diocess; being engaged for the Church of St. Andrew, now nearly finished, and expected to be consecrated in the course of the present month.

The Rev. James Montgomery has been elected rector of St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia, and has entered on the duties of his office.

The Rev. William H. De Lancey has been elected assistant Minister of Christ-Church, St. Peter's, and St. James's, in the city of Philadelphia.

The Rev. Richard Umpstead Morgan, who was ordained a Deacon during the last convention, has taken the charge of St. Paul's Church, Chester, and of St. Martin's, Marcus Hook.

The Rev. George B. Shaeffer has resigned the charge of St. John's Church, York, having returned to the Diocess of Maryland.

The Rev. John P. Bausman, jr. who had been ordained in the Diocess of Maryland, has taken the charge of the congregations of Brownsville and Connelsville, in Fayette county.

The Rev. Joseph Spencer, formerly of this Diocess, but resident for some years past in that of Maryland, has undertaken the charge of the congregation in Carlisle; being also appointed a professor in Dickerson College, in that Borough.

The Rev. Moses P. Bennet, who had been ordained a Deacon in Connecticut, and sent a Missionary by the Society for the advancement of Christianity to the Western counties of this state, has been, and is still, successfully employed in raising congregations in Greensburg and Kittaning.

The Rev. Norman Nash, formerly a Deacon of the Diocess of Virginia, has been transferred to this Diocess. Since his settlement in it he has been employed principally in efforts for the erection of St. Matthew's Church, and for the organization of a congregation to worship in it: but he has lately visited some

vacant congregations in Huntingdon County, at which there is a probability he may be settled.

Charles G. Snowden, formerly a Presbyter of this Church, has been displaced by me from the Ministry, agreeably to the provisions of the 7th canon of 1820.

The same has taken place in reference to Manning B. Roche, formerly a Presbyter of this Church, and rector of Trinity church, Southwark; of which the Rev. George Boyd, rector of St. John's Church, in the Northern Liberties, has taken the provisional charge.

The only person admitted as a candidate during the present year, is Wm. Levington, a coloured man.

The Society for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania, have continued their exertions, which have been blessed by a considerable degree of usefulness; although not sustained by a patronage adequate to its importance. There will be submitted to the convention a narrative of their proceedings: in which it should be especially noticed, that the annual subscription has been lessened, under the expectation that the loss from that measure will be more than balanced by an increase of the number of contributors.

Its auxiliary, the Female Tract Society, has continued their publications with considerable benefit. There has been lately a suspension of their distributions, in consequence of a fire, which, originating in a neighbouring house, consumed that of the Bookseller in whose office the tracts were deposited. A considerable proportion of the tracts were consumed; and as no small number of those rescued from the flames were in sheets and scattered, it required time to review and to arrange them.

The Prayer Book Society has become merged in the Society for the Advancement of Christianity; to be in future a branch of it, agreeably to a provision in its constitution. In consequence of too liberal a distribution gratuitously, the benefit will be for some time limited to the furnishing of the book on cheap terms, by means of the stereotype plates.

The Sunday schools are in successful operation. In my last communication I mentioned the Sunday school society, as distinct from the more local associations formed for the giving of instruction in their respective schools; the other being designed exclusively for the furnishing of books on the cheapest terms, to the schools which have been taken into their connexion. It is probable that the knowledge of the advantage of such a connexion has not been sufficiently diffused.

The stock of the corporation for the support of the widows and children of deceased clergymen, has increased to the amount of thirty thousand dollars; the annual produce of which, considerably exceeds the legal demands resting on it. We have reason to apprehend, that the knowledge of the existence of such a fund, may create expectations which cannot be gratified, consistently with fidelity to the trust, of which there would be a manifest breach, if any portion of the income should be bestowed on any family of a clergyman, without its having been purchased for them, by his annual contributions.

My confidence is still possessed by the Bible society of Philadelphia; to which it will be continued, so long as they shall continue to act on the ground of their original organization. It has been said, that in some societies, formed under the profession of the same object, of distributing the Bible without note or comment, other objects have been associated; perhaps with a pious design, but inconsistent with promise pledged, and tending to aggravate, instead of diminishing the differences subsisting among christian people.

Every lapse of a year, increases my solicitude to hold up, as a very important object, the creating of a fund for the support of a future Bishop. I suppose it to be generally understood, that I have no personal interest in the subject; but it would be a gratification to me to foresee, that my successor, detached from parochial concerns, will have it in his power to bestow all his labours on the work of the Episcopacy; and thus, be more efficient in the latter line, than has been possible in my case, on account of my parochial engagements. Having passed my seventy-fifth year, it is what ought to remind me that although my health and strength, under a merciful Providence, are equal to what they have been at any period of my life, there must, ere long, be a decline of body, and perhaps of mind, even in the uncertain event of there being still a lengthening of my days.

It has appeared to me, that the instituting of a Theological Seminary, has been met by the general approbation of the members of our church, and yet there does not seem to exist a due consideration of the expense necessary for the conducting of it on a plan adequate to its importance. In addition to this, the liberal bequest of a public spirited member of our church in the state of New York, seems to have been considered by some, as almost sufficient for the satisfying of the call on the generosity of the public. This is a mistake, as must be known by those who are conversant in the construction of institutions of the description stated. It is to be hoped, that further information will produce

more correct habits of thinking on the subject; an issue which may be effected by statements of the clergy, and of influential gentlemen of the laity, as opportunities may offer.

It is a matter known to those who are prominent in the concerns of our church in this state, and doubtless the same is felt in other sections of the Union, that we receive most pressing entreaties for the extension of beneficence beyond our respective bounds; especially to the scattered episcopalians, who have seated themselves in the states which have derived their existence from the federal union. There is also a sentiment considerably prevalent, that it has become a christian duty, to add our efforts to the many recently put forth, as well in America as in Europe, for the evangelizing of heathen nations. In my last annual communication, there was stated the fact, of there having been organized a society by the public wisdom of our church, for domestic and foreign missions. It has also been thought proper, to make the city of Philadelphia, in this state, the seat from which the combined energies are to be put forth. Your Bishop is aware of the weight of the claims lying on us, from the many places within our own diocese, destitute of the means of grace. He, however, considers it as his duty to declare the opinion that the objects stated have also their claims on us not to be disregarded, consistently with the extensive requisitions of christian charity. It will be seen on attention to the constitution of the society, that every contributor has his choice of pouring his bounty either into the channel of the domestic, or into that of the foreign object; and while the opinion is here expressed, that the former was designed to be the most prominent, it is with the expectation, that in the disposal of what the public liberality may supply without the restraint of appropriation, the society will regard the latter object also, in proportion to the means with which they may be furnished.

At the last convention, a committee was appointed, who, in concurrence with the bishop, might make provision for the supply of destitute congregations. The committee have bestowed their attention on that important work; and with considerable effect; as it will lie on them to make report to the convention, the less may be said on the subject in this address.

Before the concluding of the communication, the deliverer of it is desirous of stating the view which he takes of the very delicate department of administering the discipline of the church; especially in the painful task of noticing delinquency in any of his clerical brethren, in regard either to error in doctrine, or to immorality of life.

On the first of these subjects, the danger of infringing on latitude of sentiment, in matters not extending to the denial of the essential doctrines of the gospel as held by our church, and assented to at ordination, ought to produce caution relative to such diversity, as may reasonably be thought to subsist, without detriment to the degree of uniformity exacted by our articles and our services: and yet, all considerate persons will be aware of the difficulty of determining the point, at which error ceases to be harmless.

On the other of the two subjects, it so often happens, that there are propagated reports ascertained on inquiry to be without foundation, and it likewise so often happens, that when perhaps they are well founded, the reporters of them shrink from the bearing of testimony to what they will not be backward to affirm in ordinary conversation, that a bishop, however disposed to dissolve the connexion between the church and an unworthy clergyman, ought to be conscientiously awake to the danger of giving countenance to slander, especially, as rashness of this sort would unite, in his person, the character of an accuser with that of a judge.

The embarrassment arising from both of these sources, has been considerably lessened by a canon passed in the General Convention of 1820, providing a process by which a minister may render his severance from the ministry his own act. It is a process less painful to his feelings, than that provided by the 26th and 27th canons of 1808; and therefore he has strong inducements to have recourse to it. The canon of 1820, however, has been sometimes misunderstood, as if purporting no more than suspension from the exercise of the ministerial function. For this reason, the notice of it is introduced at present; and the wish is expressed, that the well informed members of the church, and the clergy in particular, would make known, as opportunity may serve, that a sentence, under the said canon, effects complete dismissal from the ministry, and ought to operate as a caution against the considering of the party as an ordained minister: the authority conferred on him in ordination having ceased.

I have nothing to add, brethren, but my wishes that your deliberations may be blessed to the good of the church, and the assurance of my hearty concurrence in what may have a tendency to that desirable object.

WILLIAM WHITE.

Thomas Charlton, a delegate from St. John's Church, near New London cross-roads, appeared and took his seat.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. *Abercrombie*, the rules of order were read.

On motion of Mr. *Read*, the following substitute for the 24th. regulation was adopted.

“A Treasurer of the convention, and a Treasurer of the Episcopal fund, shall be chosen upon the assembling of the Annual Convention of this Diocese, who shall remain in office until the meeting of the next convention. They shall perform all the duties usually appertaining to the office of a treasurer. Their accounts shall close on the Tuesday before the meeting of the Convention, and shall be submitted to the examination of the standing committee of the diocese. And the said standing committee shall report thereon to the convention.”

Mr. *John Read* was chosen by ballot Treasurer of the Episcopal Fund; and Mr. *Thomas H. White* Treasurer of the Convention.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Muhlenburg*, the committee on the state of the Church, appointed by the last convention, was called upon to report.

The committee stated that unavoidable circumstances had prevented them from preparing a report.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Delegates to the General Convention be a committee to prepare, with the sanction of the Bishop, a report on the state of the Church, to be made to the General convention.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Montgomery*, the following amendment to the constitution was introduced, and approved by the convention, to be acted on at the next annual convention, viz.

Resolved, That the 4th article of the constitution of the Church in this state be amended, so as to read after the words “*deputy or deputies*,” “*worshippers in the said Church*.”

Mr. *Meredith*, from the committee on the subject of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary, presented the following report:

The committee appointed to inquire, and to report the number of trustees which this convention is entitled to nominate for the General Theological seminary, agreeably to the constitution thereof, report,

That by the constitution, each Diocese is entitled to one trustee, to an additional trustee for every eight Clergymen within its bounds, and to an additional trustee for every \$2000 contributed

to the seminary, until the sum amounts to \$10,000 and to one for every \$10,000 exceeding the first.

Applying this rule, it appears that the Diocese of Pennsylvania is entitled in that character to one trustee, having thirty-two Clergymen, it is further entitled to four trustees; and that the contributions to the establishment of the "Bishop White Scholarship," (in which there is an excess of \$500 above the sum necessary for that purpose, being \$2000,) entitles it to one additional trustee—that besides this excess of \$500, a considerable sum has been contributed, making, as there is reason to believe, in the whole, a sum sufficient to entitle this Diocese to one other trustee.

The committee therefore propose, that this convention should nominate six trustees absolutely, and one upon the condition that it shall appear at the next meeting of the general convention, that the total of contributions to the seminary from this Diocese amount to, or exceed, \$4,000.

W. MEREDITH,
CHARLES SMITH,
JOHN MILLER, Jr.

The Rev. Mr. *Kemper* read the minutes of the standing committee of the Diocese during the past year.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Kemper*, the convention then proceeded to the election of Delegates to the general convention.

The Rev. Dr. *Abercrombie*, the Rev. Mr. *Bull*, the Rev. Mr. *Kemper*, and the Rev. Mr. *Muhlenberg*, of the Clergy, and Messrs. *Sitgreaves*, *Stiles*, *Read* and *Meredith*, of the Laity, were chosen.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Bull*, the convention proceeded to ballot for members of the standing committee and council of advice, and the Rev. Mr. *Boyd*, Rev. Mr. *Kemper*, Rev. Mr. *Bedell*, Rev. Dr. *Abercrombie*, and the Rev. Mr. *Allen*, of the Clergy, with Messrs. *Dale*, *Read*, *Commigys* and *Wheeler*, of the Laity, were elected.

On motion of Mr. *Read*—*Henry Hollingsworth* and *John M. Price*, Esqrs. were appointed the committee of accounts.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Bedell*, the parochial reports from the following parishes were read—

PAROCHIAL REPORTS.

Christ Church, Philadelphia, female school—19 teachers—60 scholars—male—4 teachers—35 scholars.

St. James's Church, Philadelphia, female school—12 teachers—80 scholars—male—3 teachers—50 scholars.

St. Peter's Church. Philadelphia, female school—10 teachers—60 scholars—male—4 teachers—50 scholars.

Christ-Church, St. Peter's and St. James's, the Rt. Rev. William White, rector, Rev. Dr. Abercrombie, and Rev. Messrs. Kemper and De Lancey, assistant ministers,—baptisms 146—burials 135—communicants 425.

St. Paul's church, Philadelphia, the Rev. B. Allen, rector—communicants 210 (of which 50 were added during the last year)—baptisms (10 adults) 69—marriages 9—funerals 49—Sunday scholars 500 (of which about 200 are persons of colour.)

Bible classes for the benefit of youth have been carried on to considerable extent, and have been found sources of the most signal benefit. The mode of conducting them, by means of *written* questions and answers, has been found more acceptable than that usually adopted.

Among the ladies, a society, entitled the "Pilmore Society of St. Paul's Church," exists for the purpose of aiding young men who are looking forward to the ministry. Two young men are receiving its support.

Among the young men of the church, a society is in active operation, whose chief object is the distribution of the Homilies in the form of tracts.

The spiritual interests of the church are extremely encouraging in their aspect, and there is reason to hope for a continually increasing blessing. May he "without whom nothing is strong—multiply upon us his mercies."

St. Stephen's church, Philadelphia. The Rev. James Montgomery rector, deems it proper to record in this first Parochial Report of the church, the following statement.

The corner stone of the present splendid edifice was laid on the 28th of May, 1822—and the church consecrated on the 27th of February, 1823. A large and highly respectable congregation immediately attached itself to the church, and since the commencement of regular service, on the 9th of March, the assembled worshippers have been numerous and attentive.

It not having been yet practicable to propose the register required by canon, the number of communicants cannot now be exactly ascertained—but they may be estimated at about forty. Baptisms (adults 1, infants 7) 8.

Sunday schools have been recently instituted in this church with very flattering prospects of success and usefulness.

Upon the whole, present appearances justify the pleasing expectation, that with the blessing of Heaven, the establishment of this church, will redound to the advancement of the divine glory and the good of souls.

St. Stephen's Church, Wilkes-Barre, the Rev. Samuel Sitgreaves, Jr. minister,—Baptisms, (adults 6, children 26) 32—communicants 31—increase from last year 19—marriages 2—deaths (one of them a communicant) 3.

St. John's Church, (N. L.) Philadelphia, the Rev. George Boyd, rector,—baptisms (adults 5, infants 22) 27—communicants 98—removed and dead 11.

The two Sunday schools belonging to this church are much in the same situation as they were at the time of the last report.

Trinity church, Southwark, Philadelphia, the Rev. George Boyd temporary rector,—communicants 71—baptisms since the first of January, 3 infants.

The Female Sunday school belonging to this church has 137 children on its roll—and 20 teachers.—The Male school has 100 children—5 teachers, and 3 assistant teachers.

St. John's church, Norristown, the Rev. J. C. Clay, rector,—communicants (deceased and removed 12) 52—baptisms 15—marriages 8—funerals 11—children in Sunday school, about 40.

St. James's church, Perkiomen, the Rev. J. C. Clay, rector—communicants 21—baptisms 5—marriages 14—funerals 7.

St. John's church, Carlisle, the Rev. Joseph Spencer, rector—communicants from 25 to 30—baptisms 5—marriages 2—funerals 1.

There is a Sunday school attached to this church, which contains from fifty to sixty children.

The present state of this congregation would not, perhaps, justify me in saying, that its prospects are very flattering. There is, however, reason to believe, that it is gradually improving both in piety and numbers.

Trinity church, Pittsburgh, the Rev. W. Thompson, rector—baptisms —(adults 2, children 25) 27—communicants 50—marriages 2—funerals 3.

Hopes are entertained that the church in this city is rising from her decayed and scattered state : for the year last past, our congregations have been uniformly good ; there is among our people a growing attachment to our most excellent church ; a considerable zeal for promoting her interests ; tolerably correct views of her distinctive character ; and on the minds of many, a just concern for eternal things.

St. Andrew's church, Philadelphia, the Rev. G. T. Bedell, rector—marriages 2—baptisms 6.

The congregation of this church having been but lately organized, no regular parochial report can of course be given.

Christ's church, Greensburgh, and the church at Kittaning, the Rev. Moses P. Bennet, minister—baptisms at Greensburgh (adults 18, children 43) 61—communicants 21—funerals 4—marriages 1. Baptisms at Kittaning 3—Somerset 2.

As this is the first report which has been made of the Church in Greensburgh, perhaps it will not be improper to remark, that under present circumstances, there appears every prospect of a permanent establishment. During the last summer, of 1822, my exertions were made for the purpose of having our church organized and incorporated according to law, and with the divine blessing, my endeavours have been successful. We obtained a charter: the wardens and vestry then opened a subscription for the purpose of erecting a house of public worship ; and I am happy in stating to this Convention, that on Monday the 5th inst., the corner stone was laid, in expectation of having the whole completed by the first of October next. During the past year, I have preached once at Freeport, and once at Somerset, where I baptized two children ; and it would be of the greatest importance that more labourers could be obtained for this part of our vineyard.

St. James's church, Lancaster, the Rev. Joseph Clarkson, associate rector—baptisms (infants 18, adults 2) 20—funerals 18.

St. John's church, Pequea, the Rev. Joseph Clarkson, associate rector.—baptisms (infants 32, adults 18) 50—funerals not known—communicants —.

Christ's church, Leacock, the Rev. Joseph Clarkson, rector,—baptisms (infants 23, adults 5) 28—funerals not known—communicants not known—marriages 36, in the 3 congregations.

Trinity church, Oxford, the Rev. George Sheets, rector—baptisms 7—communicants 23—burials 23.

All Saints, Lower Dublin, the Rev. G. Sheets, rector—communicants 29—burials 25—marriages 6.

St. John's church, Huntingdon, the Rev. N. Nash, minister.—The members of this Church, notwithstanding the many discouragements and severe rebukes with which they have heretofore been tried, still continue to evince a zeal in the cause of Christ, and an attachment to the interests of the Church, which is truly praiseworthy.

Mr. Nash has officiated in Huntingdon for nearly two months past, during which time he has had the satisfaction of meeting large and attentive congregations; but from the peculiar situation in which they have been unhappily placed, and his short acquaintance with the congregation, cannot state the precise number of actual members. One adult person has been baptized—a promising female bible class commenced—a large Sunday school instituted—and an auxiliary missionary society organized.

In *Lewistown* also the members of the Church manifest a strong desire that the waste places may be built up. The strictest attention is paid to the ministry of the word.

St. James's church, Lancaster, and St. John's, Pequea, the Rev. William Augustus Muhlenberg, associate rector.—In compliance with the resolution of the last convention, in which the Clergy are recommended to relate whatever facts may exhibit the state of religion in their respective parishes; it is proper to remark, that the church in Lancaster is gradually increasing in numbers, and, it is trusted, in seriousness and piety—though the additions to the communion since the last report have been but small. The Sunday school, in which the *ladies* of the congregation especially, continue to persevere with becoming zeal, is, perhaps, the most interesting object in the parish—including both departments, about 200 children attend, instructed by 20 teachers. As a proof of the salutary influence of these institutions upon those who conduct them, as well as upon their pupils, it may be mentioned, that several of the teachers have become professors of religion since being engaged in the school.

The bible class consists of about 15 young ladies, whose improvement in biblical knowledge proves the importance and efficiency of this means of conveying scriptural instruction.

Collections have been made for the Episcopal fund, and for the society for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania—for the former of which 80 dollars were collected, and for the latter \$50. There are also in the congregation a society, and an association auxiliary to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary

Society of the P. E. Church of the U. S. which, as the funds of the former are already considerable, it is expected will be able to forward, annually, a respectable contribution to the parent institution. With the majority of the congregation, a decided interest is felt in the missionary and bible cause.

At *St. John's church, Pequea*, a collection for the Episcopal fund has also been made, amounting to \$20. With respect to this congregation, I can add but little of an encouraging nature, as I visit them but once in four weeks—that frequent intercourse does not exist between minister and people, which is necessary to the satisfaction of the one, or the spiritual improvement of the other. Many of the families, some of whom are the most respectable in the neighbourhood, are warmly attached to the church, and are desirous that by some arrangement a resident pastor might be settled among them. Were this accomplished, I believe the church would flourish in this part of the country.

St. James's, Lancaster—baptisms—4 of which were adults 20—communicants 40—marriages 6.

St. Paul's church, Chester, and St. Martin's, Marcus Hook, by the Rev. R. U. Morgan.—Baptisms, since the first of last July—infants 3—communicants, removed 1, present number 40—marriages 7—burials 15.

To the latter of the above mentioned churches, there is attached a Sunday school, which is under the superintendence of six male and six female teachers. There are between forty and fifty children upon the roll, and about thirty regular in attendance. Attention to it is increasing.

St. James's church, Bristol, the Rev. J. Jaquett, minister—communicants 134—baptisms 2—burials 15—marriages 3.

Trinity church, Easton, the Rev. John Rodney, junior, rector,—baptisms 10, two of which were adults—marriages 8—funerals 7—communicants 25, six of whom have been added during the year past, and five have removed.

The Sunday school attached to the church is flourishing: it consists of 75 scholars, conducted by 16 teachers.

St. Luke's church, Germantown, the Rev. Charles Meredith Dupuy, rector,—baptisms 3—communicants 20—marriages 3—burials 3.

A large number of the families attached to this church are of Philadelphia, and reside in Germantown only during the summer

months. The above report is made of those families who permanently reside in Germantown.

The Sunday school continues under the divine blessing to prosper. The names of one hundred children are entered on the roll. They are generally regular in their attendance. Forty of their number are catechumens.

Return of *St. Gabriel's church, Malattin, the Rev. Levi Bull, rector*—communicants 71—baptisms 15—all children—marriages 4—funerals 29.

Return of *St. Mury's, Chester county, the Rev. Levi Bull, rector*—communicants 92—marriages 24—funerals not known.

Return of *Bangor church, Lancaster county, the Rev. Levi Bull, rector*—communicants 40—marriages, number not known—funerals, number not known.

There is a Sunday school at Malattin, not very flourishing—there are three conducted in the vicinity of St. Mary's church, which promise to be useful, conducted partly by the members of the above church.

There is one at Bangor, in a flourishing state, conducted also partly by the members of that church.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Allen, Resolved*, That the next annual convention of this church be held at Norristown, Montgomery county.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Kemper, Resolved*, That the meeting of the next annual convention be on the first Tuesday after the first Wednesday in May.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Muhlenberg, Resolved*, That every clergyman who does not comply with the 1st section of the 9th regulation of this church, be required at the next convention to assign a reason for the same.

Chief Justice *Tilghman*, Mr. *Deshong*, Mr. *Stevenson*, Mr. *Clarkson*, Mr. *Pearce*, and Capt. *Wallington* solicited and obtained leave of absense during the remainder of the session.

The convention then adjourned to meet to-morrow, at 9 o'clock, A. M.

Thursday, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment. Morning Prayer was conducted by the Rev. Mr. *Montgomery*.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Montgomery—Resolved*, That the

thanks of this convention be returned to the Rev. Mr. *Bedell*, for his Sermon delivered at its opening.

Mr. *Hazlehurst* and Mr. *Miller* obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Clay*—*Resolved*, That the thanks of this convention be given to the friends of the Church in Lancaster, for the hospitality and kindness experienced from them by the members of the convention.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Sheets*, the committee appointed by the last convention in relation to the supply of vacant congregations, were called upon to report, and reported as follows :

The committee appointed by the last convention to consult with the bishop upon some mode for supplying the vacant congregations in this state with occasional services, &c. beg leave to report that very soon after the adjournment of the convention, a plan was formed, by which each vacant congregation, and each vicinity where it was supposed a few Episcopalians could be found, might be visited from 3 to 4 times in the course of the year. This arrangement required that each clergyman in the state should devote two or three Sundays to missionary purposes. The plan received the approbation of the bishop, and was acted upon for some time with considerable effect. A correspondence was opened with most of the clergy of the Diocese ; several of them had made one or more journies, and others were preparing to go, when the committee felt it their duty, though with great reluctance, to limit, as far as possible, their future operations.—A communication from the treasurer of the convention arrested their attention. They applied to the bishop and his council for advice, and immediately determined that no new arrangements should be made. This step was taken on the 13th of last Dec. on the following account: The committee, in making their plan, found it necessary in order to accomplish the wish of the convention, that several clergymen should travel a considerable distance. Some of the most interesting and promising of our new congregations are a great way off from the residence of any parochial minister. Visits to these members of our church proved to be more expensive than was expected. The demands upon the treasury were increasing, and it was greatly feared that the accomplishment of the whole design would exhaust the funds before the meeting of the convention should arrive.

Although, therefore, all that the committee had anticipated has not been accomplished, they are gratified in stating that much good has been done. It remains for the convention to determine

whether the present plan shall be pursued or a new one be adopted.

The following were arranged in the list of vacant congregations and of places which deserve attention :

Hamiltonville---Susquehanna and Bradford counties---Nescopec and Berwick---Bloomsburg and Jersey-shore---Franklin and Butler counties &c.---Whitemarsh---St. Peter's, Chester valley---Huntingdon county---Adams county---Carlisle---New London cross roads---Mifflin county, &c.---Northumberland, Sunbury, and Milton---Fayette county---Philipsburg---Reading---and Somerset county. York was soon added to the list.

Of these, Whitemarsh has been visited by the Rev. Dr. Abercrombie, the Rev. Dr. Beasley, the Rev. Mr. Muhlenberg, and several times by the Rev. Mr. Bedell. This Church, one of the earliest established in the state, remains vacant.

St. Peter's, in the Valley, has been visited by the Rev. Dr. Abercrombie, the Rev. Mr. Montgomery, the Rev. Mr. Allen, and the Rev. Mr. Bull. This church is still vacant.

Huntingdon was visited by the Rev. Mr. Boyd. The Rev. Mr. Nash has been officiating in this interesting county two or three months. The statement of Mr. Boyd is appended to this report.

The church in Adams county has been twice visited by the Rev. Mr. Clarkson. This congregation expects to be united to that of York ; and it is believed that when thus united they can support a clergyman.

Nescopec and Berwick were visited by the Rev. Mr. Sheets. Berwick was likewise visited by the Rev. Mr. Hopkins.

∨ Bloomsbury and Jersey shore were visited by the Rev. Mr. Sheets. The report of this Rev. gentleman will appear below.—Bloomsbury was likewise visited by the Rev. Mr. Dupuy.

New London cross roads has been visited by the Rev. Messrs. Bull, Brinckle and Morgan.

Northumberland, Sunbury and Milton. The Rev. Mr. Clay has officiated at all these places. The Rev. Mr. Rodney has officiated at Northumberland and Milton. Northumberland and Sunbury have been visited by the Rev. Mr. Dupuy and Northumberland by the Rev. Mr. Sheets.

Fayette county was visited by the Rev. Mr. Thompson. The committee are happy to state that since March, the Rev. Mr. Bausman has been settled in this county.

At Hamiltonville, the Rev. Messrs. Bedell, Allen and Kemper have preached.

The congregations in Susquehanna and Bradford counties were visited by the Rev. Mr. Roche in August last, and have since been visited by the Rev. Mr. Sitgreaves. The statement of Mr. Sitgreaves deserves attention.

The Rev. Messrs. Dupuy and Nash have officiated at Reading.

Before Carlisle could be visited, it was most happily supplied by the Rev. Professor Spencer.

The other places have not been visited under the direction of the committee.

All which, with the accompanying documents, is respectfully submitted.

JACKSON KEMPER,

On behalf of the Committee.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Muhlenberg*, *Resolved*, That the committee of publication be required to form a digest of the information presented in the report of the committee for the supply of vacant congregations, in order to have it inserted in the Journal of this convention.

This digest will be found appended to the Journal.

On motion of Mr. *Meredith*, *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to consider and report to the next convention, a plan for raising a fund and providing means for supplying the vacant congregations and vicinities in this diocese: and that in the mean while the said committee, with the approbation of the Bishop, take such measures as they may find practicable for accomplishing that object, with the same powers which were granted to the committee appointed at the last convention.

The Rev. Dr. Beasley, the Rev. Mr. Kemper, and the Rev. Mr. Boyd were appointed the committee.

On motion of the Rev. Mr. *Sheets*, *Resolved*, That in future it shall be the duty of the Clergy, in any place where the State Convention may be held, to provide, if possible, private accommodations for both the Clergy and Lay Delegates who may attend the same.

The convention then went into an election for Trustees of the General Theological Seminary, to be nominated to the general convention, and in pursuance of the report of the committee on that subject, six were chosen absolutely, and one conditionally.

The following persons were elected, absolutely: the Rev. Mr. *Kemper*, Rev. Mr. *Boyd*, Rev. Mr. *Montgomery*, Rev. Mr. *Bedell*, Mr. *John Read*, and Chief Justice *Tughman*.

The Rev. Mr. *Allen* was chosen on the contingency that the Diocess is entitled to another Trustee.

On motion of Mr. *Robinson*, the accounts of the Treasurer of the Convention and of the Episcopal Fund were read.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Treasurer of the Convention be authorized to pay such part of the expenses of the General Convention as may be apportioned to this Diocess.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Rev. Mr. *Kemper* and the Secretary be the committee of publication.

The Convention then adjourned sine die.

WILLIAM H. DE LANCEY,
Secretary.

List of the Congregations in the Diocess of Pennsylvania.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.

The City of Philadelphia.—The united churches of Christ Church, St. Peter's Church and St. James's Church—St. Paul's Church, St. Stephen's Church, St. Andrew's Church, and St. Thomas's (African) Church.

Northern Liberties.—St. John's Church.

Southwark.—Trinity Church.

Lower Dublin Township.—All Saints Church.

Oxford Township.—Trinity Church.

Germantown.—St. Luke's Church.

Blockley Township, Mantua.—St. Mark's Church.

DELAWARE COUNTY.

C'ester.—St. Paul's Church.

Lower Chichester Township, Marcus Hook.—St. Martin's Church.

Concord Township.—St. John's Church.

Radnor Township.—St. David's Church.

CHESTER COUNTY.

New London Township.—St. John's Church.

East Nantmeal Township.—St. Mary's Church.

Valley.—St. Peter's Church.

LANCASTER COUNTY.

City of Lancaster.—St. James's Church.

Pequea Township.—St. John's Church.

Leacock Township.—Christ Church.

Caernarvon Township, Church Town.—Bangor Church.

BUCKS COUNTY.

Bristol.—St. James the Greater's Church.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

Whitemarsh Township.—St. Thomas's Church.

Perkiomen Township.—St. James's Church.

Norristown.—St. John's Church.

BERKS COUNTY.

Amity Township.—St. Gabriel's Church.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY.

Easton.—Trinity Church.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Milton.—Christ Church.

COLUMBIA COUNTY.

Sugarloaf Township.—St. Gabriel's Church.

Bloomsbury.—St. Paul's Church.

LYCOMING COUNTY.

Muncey Creek Township.—St. James's Church.

LUZERNE COUNTY.

Wilkes-Barre.—St. Stephen's Church.

BRADFORD COUNTY.

Pike. ——— Church.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY.

Springville. ——— Church.

New Milford. ——— Church.

YORK COUNTY.

York.—St. John's Church.

ADAMS COUNTY.

Huntington Township.—Christ Church.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Carlisle.—St. John's Church.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY.

Huntingdon.—St. John's Church.

ALLEGANY COUNTY.

City of Pittsburgh.—Trinity Church.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY.

Greensburg.—Christ Church.

LIST OF THE CLERGY

OF THE

DIOCESS OF PENNSYLVANIA,

May, 1823.

- The Right Rev. William White, D. D. Bishop, Senior of the American Church, presiding in the House of Bishops, and Rector of Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. James's, Philadelphia.
- The Rev. Robert Blackwell, D. D. residing in Philadelphia.
- The Rev. Joseph Hutchins, D. D. residing in Philadelphia.
- The Rev. Joseph Pilmore, D. D. residing in Philadelphia.
- The Rev. James Abercrombie, D. D. Senior Assistant Minister of Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. James's, Philadelphia.
- The Rev. Frederick Beasley, D. D. Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
- The Rev. Bird Wilson, D. D. Professor of Systematic Divinity in the General Theological Seminary.
- The Rev. Joseph Clarkson, Associate Rector of St. James's Church, Lancaster, and St. John's Church, Pequea, and Rector of Christ Church, Leacock
- The Rev. Robert Ayres, residing in Brownsville, Fayette county.
- The Rev. Francis Reno, officiating in Beaver county.
- The Rev. James Wiltbank, Master of the Grammar School in the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
- The Rev. Caleb Hopkins, Rector of St. James's Church, Muncey Creek, Lycoming county, and St. Gabriel's, Sugar Loaf, Columbia county.
- The Rev. Levi Bull, Rector of St. Gabriel's Church, Berks county, St. Mary's, Chester county, and Bangor Church, Churchtown, Lancaster county.
- The Rev. John Taylor, residing in Pittsburgh.
- The Rev. Jackson Kemper, Assistant Minister of Christ Church, St. Peter's and St. James's, Philadelphia.
- The Rev. Gregory T. Bedell, Rector of St. Andrew's Church, Philadelphia.
- The Rev. George Boyd, Rector of St. John's Church, N. Liberties, Philadelphia.
- The Rev. Jehu C. Clay, Rector of St. James's Church, Perkiomen, and St. John's, Norristown, Montgomery county.

The Rev. James Montgomery, Rector of St. Stephen's, Philadelphia.

The Rev. Benjamin Allen, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia.

The Rev. George Sheets, Rector of Trinity Church, Oxford, and All Saints' Church, Lower Dublin, Philadelphia county.

The Rev. Charles M. Dupuy, Rector of St. Luke's Church, Germantown, Philadelphia county.

The Rev. John P. Bausman, Jr. officiating in Brownsville and Connelville, Fayette county.

The Rev. Samuel C. Brinckle, Rector of St. David's, Radnor, and St. John's, Concord.

The Rev. William A. Muhlenberg, Associate Rector of St. James's, Lancaster, and St. John's, Pequea, Lancaster county.

The Rev. John Rodney, junior, Rector of Trinity Church, Easton, Northampton county.

The Rev. William H. De Lancey, Assistant Minister of Christ Church, St. Peter's, and St. James's, Philadelphia.

The Rev. William Thompson, Rector of Trinity Church, Pittsburgh, Alleghany county.

The Rev. Joseph Spencer, Rector of St. John's Church, Carlisle, and Professor of Languages in Dickinson College.

The Rev. Joseph Jaquett, officiating at Bristol, Bucks county.

The Rev. Samuel Sitgreaves, junior, Deacon, officiating in St. Stephen's Church, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne county.

The Rev. Norman Nash, Deacon, officiating in Huntingdon county.

The Rev. Moses P. Bennet, Deacon, officiating in Greensburgh, and Kittanning.

The Rev. Richard U. Morgan, Deacon, officiating in St. Paul's, Chester, and St. Martin's, Marcus Hook, Delaware county.

Total 34.

The surviving trustees of the Episcopal Fund, for the Diocese of Pennsylvania, report to the standing committee—

That since their last report, made on the 23d day of April, 1822, the treasurer has received \$1044 22 from collections made in the churches, and from the interest on United States stock. This sum, as it was received, was immediately laid out, but the stock purchased with it, being at the time at an advance, the trustees could procure with it but \$999 57. These investments, in addition to the former purchases, will make the whole amount of six per cent. stock, belonging to the Episcopal Fund at this time, seven thousand seven hundred and thirty-three dollars and nine cents.

JOHN READ, } *Surviving*
RICHARD DALE, } *Trustees.*

Philadelphia, May 6, 1823.

*Bought by order of John Read, Esquire, Treasurer of the
Episcopate Fund.*

1822		6 per cent of 1814.				
	May 22	\$287 28	at	104½ per cent		\$300 21
	June 4	80 20	-	103½	-	83 00
	July 16	110 34	-	105	-	115 86
	October 18	112 04	-	106	-	108 16
1823	January 22	103 48	-	106	-	109 69
	April 22	126 80	-	103½	-	131 24
	May 2	189 43	-	do.	-	196 06
		<hr/>				
		\$992 57				\$1044 22
		<hr/>				

The stock transferred to John Read, Thomas M'Euen, and Richard Dale, in trust, and payment received from John Read, Esq.

HALE & DAVIDSON, *Philadelphia.*

AN ABSTRACT

OF THE DOCUMENTS WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPLY OF VACANT CHURCHES.

Referred to at page 25.

AT Northumberland the Rev. *Mr. Sheets* reports, there is scarcely the appearance of a congregation. He preached here three times, once in a brick church, a part of which belongs to the Episcopalians. At Bloomsburg he baptized a child, administered the communion, and preached five times. Mr. S. likewise visited Jerseytown, Berwick and Nescopee. He was absent three Sundays during the months of August and September, and preached during his visit 19 times. "Our congregations" says he, "have been good, and, I would hope that the word has not altogether fallen to the ground. Many appear sincerely pious, and are, I trust, inquiring their way with their faces thitherward."

The Rev. *Mr. Clarkson* visited Christ Church, Huntington, Adams county, on Monday, the first of September, preached to a crowded and mixed congregation, and administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper to 15 persons. During divine service, great solemnity prevailed. A strong attachment to the church in every particular was evident. 5 Infants were baptized. The congregation consists of about 25 families, who are desirous of having regular service. They are unable, at present, to raise more than \$200, and would be satisfied with the third part of a Clergyman's time. During the pastoral charge of the late lamented Rev. Mr. Woodruff, they had *half his time* and services—and Carlisle the other. But the church at Carlisle being now supplied by the Rev. Professor Spencer, the Huntington congregation have formed a connexion with the church at York—the two churches being about 18 miles apart, and are ready to receive and encourage the application of any respectable Clergyman.—The York congregation can raise about \$300, exclusive of a very spacious and convenient parsonage house and garden, &c.

I am thus particular, says Mr. Clarkson, at the request of one of the parties, acting for both, at once to show their desire for a pastor, and their ability to support one, however small at present, that no disappointment may ensue from *exaggerated* statements, which is too often the case.

It is further suggested, however, that an increase of both the congregations, and consequently, an increase of support, will take place as soon as a regular clergyman is settled among them.

Mr. Clarkson paid a second visit to this congregation in December last, when the Lord's Supper was again administered, and a child baptized.

The Rev. Mr. Boyd visited the county of Huntingdon in November. The Episcopalians in the town of Huntingdon and its vicinity are numerous. 51 persons, the most of whom have families, profess to belong to the church. The house of worship is at present owned by them, in union with the Lutherans and Presbyterians; but it is their intention, in the event of their being able to obtain the stated services of a clergyman, either to purchase the whole of the present building, or erect a new one. 12 children were baptized here.

Mr. Boyd officiated at Watersteet, nine miles up the Juniata, and found a few Episcopalians—and learnt that at Race-town-branch, about 12 miles from Huntingdon, there were a few more.

"On the 6th of November, says Mr. Boyd, I left Huntingdon and went to Mr. Cromwell's, in the neighbourhood of Shirleysburgh, where an appointment had been made for me to preach that evening. Mr. Davis, an aged and pious member of the church at Huntingdon, accompanied me on my way, about eight miles, who at parting, with much feeling, begged that the friends of the Redeemer would remember their forlorn condition, and induce some zealous and pious minister to come and settle among them. On leaving this interesting neighbourhood, I was forcibly reminded of our Lord's words to his disciples, when he saw the multitude of his countrymen without any to show them the way of salvation, 'they fainted, and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd: then saith he unto his disciples, the harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.'—That this scripture applies to the members of other churches, I will not venture to say, but it is literally true of Episcopalians there.

"On reaching Mr. Cromwell's, I found a number of persons assembled from the surrounding country, some of whom had come eight or nine miles. The place appointed for public worship, was crowded by an attentive and serious congregation. At this time I baptized a child.

"The prospects of the Episcopal church in this section of the country are encouraging. Mr. Cromwell told me that he had no doubt a church might be built here, during the next summer, if they could procure the regular services of a clergyman one-half or even one-third of the time."

During this visit, Mr. Boyd was absent three weeks.

Report of the Rev. Mr. Allen.—In obedience to the directions of the convention, I visited the church in the valley, and the village of Hamilton. In the former, a strong attachment to the church was manifested, and a considerable congregation attended. Ten miles from the church, large congregations assembled in the woods, and some hopes are entertained, that by the blessing of God, on the exertions of a venerable member of our flock, a house of worship will be erected.

In Hamilton, a sum nearly adequate to the completion of a "house of prayer," has been subscribed, and it is believed a building will be put up.

The Rev. Mr. Thompson visited Brownsville, Union-town, and Connellsville, in November. Some ten or fifteen years past, says he, there was not less than five congregations belonging to the church, in the vicinity of Brownsville—one at West's church, six miles from Brownsville, one at Jackson's church, 7 miles, one at Muddy Creek, 11 miles, one at Red stone, 12 miles from Brownsville—the name of the other I forget—these congregations through the want of clergymen to settle in this part of the country, are nearly all gone to other denominations, yet it is believed, if a missionary could be sent among them, many of them would return to the church.

Report of the Rev. Mr. Dupuy.—During the time of my absence, which was something more than two weeks, I preached at Reading, Sunbury, Northumberland and Bloomsburg. At Reading I preached in the Lutheran church, by invitation from the Rev. Mr. Muhlenberg. The English inhabitants of the town attended generally—six or seven families attached to our Communion, reside there, besides several, I am told, well inclined to the church. An Episcopalian informed me that a lot had been left many years since to the church. I went to see it. It is situated in the most central and valuable part of the town. It appears to me, from the opinion I have been enabled to form, that if missionary aid could be afforded, the Episcopalians of Reading would be incited to raise a church. I have since heard, but I know not whether it be correct, that a missionary was sent to this place many years before the revolution, by the venerable society

of the church of England. I am inclined to think, if the Society for the Advancement of Christianity would be willing to send a missionary there now, we should soon have the pleasure of seeing a new church added to our communion.

From Reading I proceeded directly to Northumberland, and preached there twice; I also preached twice at Sunbury. The people appear gratified in these places with visits from clergymen of our church, but have no hope of ever being able to settle a clergyman among them.

From Northumberland I went to Bloomsburg, about twenty miles distant up the north branch of the Susquehanna; I preached there in the evening, in the Episcopal church; the church was well filled: I am told there are between thirty and forty families attached to it.

Report of the Rev. Messrs. Brinckle & Morgan, concerning the Church at New London.—The congregation we found in a very destitute situation, as we had expected. But little vital piety was visible among them. At the same time it was gratifying to see by their ready attendance, that they had not lost all relish for the public services of the church. Though but little direct benefit could be expected from the few sermons we preached among them, yet indirectly it seems likely to produce a beneficial result. They are now making efforts to have their church supplied, and for this purpose have started a subscription. They also contemplate repairing their house. May the Great Head of the church strengthen the things that remain and are ready to die.

Report of the Rev. Mr. Bull.—I visited and preached to the congregation of St. Peter's Church, in the Great Valley, Chester county, and also administered the holy communion to about twelve persons. Religion seems to be in a languishing state here; but as the Congregation is not very small, and the funds of the church such as to afford a moderate compensation for the services of a clergyman one half of his time, hopes are entertained, that with the blessing of God, an augmented attention to their eternal interests might be produced.

I also visited and preached to the congregation, near New London Cross Roads in the above county. The people are very much scattered, and except in a few instances, zeal for the interests of the church seems nearly extinguished. Unless efforts be soon made for their resuscitation, with the present generation will expire that languishing congregation.

The Rev. Mr. Clay reported, that he visited and officiated at Milton, Northumberland and Sunbury. In these towns there

are but few Episcopal families, and but little to encourage missionary efforts; unless, indeed, the low and languishing state of our church in those places be a motive to exertion for its revival.

Report of the Rev. Mr. Sitgreaves.---I have just returned from my excursion through Susquehanna county, and the gratification I derived from it would have been complete and unmingled, had I not been seized with a violent illness, which limited the extent of my tour. I am, however, fast recovering, and I take this earliest occasion to communicate to you the result of my observations. I should be very reluctant to express, what I think I have reason to believe, of the favourable prospects of our church in that quarter, were it not that I can confirm the justness of my impressions by the decided testimony of Judge Scott, and of every one, indeed, acquainted with the true state of things. I am fully persuaded there is no better missionary ground in our Diocese. A large portion of the population is Episcopal, and Episcopal not from chance or accident, but from the training and culture of early years, and from subsequent inquiry and conviction. Those who have now attained mature age, passed the first period of their lives in Connecticut, at a time when the church was yet in its infancy, and struggling with a powerful opposition, and the prejudices of a century; but when its principles were canvassed and brought to light, and men embraced them from the thorough approbation of their understandings and the impulses of their conscience. The Episcopalians of Susquehanna are in consequence more truly Episcopalian, and better acquainted with the history of the church, the nature of its institutions, the reasons upon which its peculiarities are founded, and the arguments by which they have been defended, than the members generally of any congregation I know any thing of out of the city, and perhaps I might say within the city too. In their hands are found the trial of Episcopacy, Skinner's Truth and Order, Bishop Seabury's Sermons, Daubeney's Guide to the Church, Nelson's Festivals and Fasts, and other works, explanatory of the tenets of the church, with the contents of which they are perfectly familiar; the Wyalusing congregation have recently purchased Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, and other writings, in which they will doubtless be soon well versed as in the old stock. Several of the Episcopalians of Susquehanna are gentlemen of liberal education; and others even, who are comparatively most uncultivated, and uninformed in other subjects, are nevertheless quite intelligent in church matters; and so remarkable has been their adherence to the church, an adherence not arising from mere feeling and fancy and "liking," but produced by conscientious inquiry and conviction, that there is no instance

among them of a dereliction of early attachment, though from 10 to 40 years severed from the rest of their fellow Episcopalians, deprived of the ministrations of their Clergymen, and surrounded by the solicitations of other sects.

Hitherto nothing more has been done, than to excite their attention, awaken their dormant predilections, animate their zeal, and form their detached portions into organized congregations: the very crisis has then, just now arrived, which demands peculiar and immediate attention. The *old* have held firm by the faith of their fathers thus far through life; but to the religious mind it is hard to die unconnected with any Church; and unless the endearing offices of their own Clergy are renewed among them, they will soon pass, however reluctantly, into the pale of other denominations; and either bear their families along, or weaken their present attachment: while the *young*, whose predispositions have not as yet become fully confirmed by a sufficient familiarity with our services, are already detaching themselves from our number.

In addition to this, there are many populous spots totally deprived of the ministrations of any denomination, and still more, which enjoy only the occasional services of Itinerants. The mouth of the Tunchannock is surrounded by a populous settlement, but there is no Clergyman within 15 miles on that side of the river, and the occasional preaching of some Baptist or Methodist is very rare at the place. On the Tunchannock, about 10 miles from its mouth, is a secluded valley, inhabited almost entirely by Episcopalians, who, for a few years past, have held a "reading meeting" on the Sunday, and also kept up a small Sunday School, principally under the direction of Mr. Rose, formerly a vestryman of Trinity Church, Easton, and yet this interesting spot has not been trod by the foot of an Episcopal Clergyman.—About 7 miles above Tunchannock, on the river, around the residence of Mr. Heisz, a gentleman of fortune and education, formerly of Philadelphia—there is another little band, who, a few years ago, made their preparations for a "reading-meeting," which, however, was unfortunately frustrated by some sudden casualties. During my tour I baptized the 8 children of Mr. Heisz at his house, and received his assurances of liberal support to a missionary who would occasionally officiate in his vicinity, which is but 10 miles from Springville. Not long since there was also a reading meeting in the neighbourhood of Silver Lake. Indeed there is scarcely a spot in the county in which, with proper pains and conduct, a small congregation might not readily

be formed. And I fervently hope and pray this truly interesting quarter may not long be unsupplied with the services of an intelligent and steady clergyman.

The congregation at Springville, where I preached repeatedly, have erected a commodious building, which they are compelled to use at present for the double purpose of a School House and a Church. Several gentlemen have recently come forward and taken a very active and zealous part in the Church affairs; and it was with much satisfaction that I observed in the congregation the indications of real and increasing piety. I trust some zealous and interesting Missionary may soon be furnished them.

At Wyalusing they are about commencing the building of their Church, which they propose to make not less than 30 feet by 40, and perhaps larger. The situation they have chosen is judicious and commanding, on an eminence overhanging the valley; and there is great reason to believe, that when the edifice is completed, and the services of the Church renewed, the entire surrounding population will become Episcopalian. "Reading Meetings" are regularly held on Sundays, both here and at Springville, and at this latter place, there is a Sunday School. The Wyalusing School will, I expect, shortly be re-commenced. At Springville I performed two Baptizms. The communion has been administered but once among the great body of Episcopalians in this county: this was last summer on the Wyalusing, when 19 members of our Church partook of the ordinance: four of these were from the Springville congregation. A very large number are anxious to receive confirmation, and many, it is expected, will, for that purpose, be at Wilkes-Barre at the time of the Bishop's anticipated visit. Many, it is also expected, will be there with the hope of participating once more in the communion.

Such is the information my tour has afforded me, relative to the state of things in Susquehanna; a representation, in which I acknowledge my feelings have betrayed themselves, but for the correctness of which, I can adduce the testimony of every one acquainted with the county: and I feel persuaded that a visit to this truly interesting people, would produce in the feelings of every one, a similar impression to that which prevails in mine. I wish it were in my power to make to the Convention, and to the more fortunate Episcopalians of other parts, a persuasive appeal in favour of this quarter of our church. Can no one be found, who, animated with that missionary spirit which prevails in our sister diocese of New York, will penetrate into this new country, where growing with its growth, he will raise around him flourishing congre-

gations, who will bear to his garner the first fruits of their fields, and in love, in kindness, and in gratitude, repay him richly for all his labours? Susquehanna contains a population of 12,000, and yet possesses but *two* resident clergymen, a baptist, and a methodist! A very large portion of this population is Episcopal, and surely their claim upon the assistance of the church is very peculiar and strong.